REMARKS

The present application is a continuation application of co-pending application no. 10/387,505 for which a notice of allowance has been issued.

An information disclosure statement has been filed on even date herewith. The information disclosure statement identifies all of the references of record from the aforementioned parent application.

Also submitted on even date herewith is a Petition to Make Special Under 37 CFR § 1.102(c). The aforementioned Petition corresponds to an identical petition filed in the parent application which was granted in paper no. 3 dated September 29, 2003, in the aforementioned parent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 26, 2004

Jóséph DeBenedictis Registration No. 28,502

BACON & THOMAS 625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor Alexandria, Virginia 22314 Phone: (703) 683-0500

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